

TRAFFIC CONTROL

1756

(November 1991)

Whenever a CAL FIRE project creates a hazardous situation involving vehicular traffic, it is the department's duty to establish and maintain a traffic warning system.

When a state highway or an important county road is involved, the department will make every reasonable effort to transfer traffic warning or control duties to the agency responsible for that roadway.

In the case of controlled burning in the vicinity of a public road, the department does not have the authority to warn traffic. However, the fire control specialist should advise the permit applicant that road smoke or fire hazard may occur and that the permittee is responsible.

TRAFFIC CONTROL--EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

1756.1

(November 1991)

When a hazard exists to employees because of traffic or haulage conditions at work sites that encroach upon public streets or highways, the department requires a system of traffic controls to abate the hazard. These controls must be in conformance with the updated 1985 Manual of Traffic Control, published by the State Department of Transportation.

Additional means of traffic control; such as continuous patrol, detours, barricades, or other techniques; may be employed for the safety of employees.

For the size and design of signs, lights, and devices used for traffic control, use the specifications described in the updated 1985 Manual of Traffic Control, published by the State Department of Transportation pursuant to the provisions of the California Vehicle Code Section 21400. The manual may be obtained at any division office or from the Department of Transportation.

Employees on foot exposed to the hazardous traffic must wear flagging garments.

PUBLIC ROAD CLOSURES

1756.2

(November 1991)

When department activities on or near a public roadway create or threaten to create a hazard, the supervisor should make a request to close the roadway to nonessential traffic.

A request to close a local county or other public road should be directed to the county sheriff or other official that exercises control over the roadway.

A request to close a state highway should be directed to both the California Highway Patrol and the office of the district highway superintendent with jurisdiction over the highway.

A request to close public roads under the jurisdiction of some particular agency, such as a national park, state park, etc., should be directed to that agency.

The agency responsible for closing a road should make the decision to reopen it to normal traffic.

FLAGGER

1756.3

(November 1991)

A flagger is required when the traffic on a public road should stop, slow down, or proceed at a speed different than normal because of department activities.

A flagger must wear a high visibility orange jacket or vest and carry a "stop" and "slow" paddle or, if not available, a red flag at least 24 inches by 24 inches. Flaggers must be illuminated at night so that they are clearly visible to approaching traffic.

Flaggers must receive sufficient instruction to assure that traffic control activities are carried out in a safe and efficient manner. They must be:

- Properly trained in methods of warning road traffic and equipped with required materials.
- Selected with careful attention to any custodial aspects of the project, including length of assignment and contact with motorists.
- Positioned so that the flagperson is within sight or hearing (nonamplified voice) of a supervisory official.
- Positioned 50 feet for each 10 miles per hour after the last warning sign and before the work project.

An inmate, ward, or corpsmember may not be used as a flagger.

WARNING SIGNS

1756.4

(November 1991)

A "Prepare to Stop" sign must be placed ahead of flaggers at about 50 feet for each 10 miles per hour of traffic flow.

Place a standard 48" x 48" sign 30 feet for each 10 miles per hour before the "Prepare to Stop" sign.

If the department project activity will not cause a hazard to any person or vehicle using the roadway, or if the activities are confined to private or department access roads with low speed and low traffic volume, a flagperson is not necessary. However, the standard "Workers Ahead" or "Road Work Ahead" signs will be placed not less than 200 feet away on both sides of the immediate work area.

TRAFFIC CONTROL DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS

1756.5

(November 1991)

Department employees engaged in traffic control during hours of darkness or periods of restricted visibility will use lights or fusees (flares) or other similar devices which produce a light or glow visible to approaching motorists for a distance of at least 500 feet. Yellow flasher warning lights are preferable for such use.

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